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MELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

in the



Administrative County of West Suffolk



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1958



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To the Chairman and Members
of the
Melford Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Melford Rural District for the year 1958.

According to the estimate of the Registrar General the population of the District remains comparatively static and the vital statistics show that both Birth and Death Rates are somewhat lower than the National figures and lower, also, than the County and Rural Aggregates apart from the Adjusted Death Rate which is identical to the County Figure.

Among the causes of death it will be noted that approximately one half of the causes of death was due to heart diseases and that no death resulted from any of the notifiable diseases. No death resulted from Leukaemia.

Notifiable diseases were fewer than average and the number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register dwindled in a satisfactory manner.

Progress was made in the laying of the new sewer in Long Melford and the Public Health Committee gave much time and thought to additional sewerage schemes.

I should like to express my gratitude to the Chairman and to the Members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement and interest and also to thank the Clerk of the Council, Mr. J.A. Shaw, the Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. J.A.E. Burrows, and Mr. H.J. Harrington, your Water Engineer, for the help and co-operation I have received from them.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G.P. BARCLAY,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS

(Figures in brackets relate to the previous year)

Area of the District.	47,270-acres.
Rateable Value.	... (£91,610.) £96,050.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate..	(£368. 12s. 10d.) £383. 5s. 8d.
Number of inhabited houses.	(4,497) 4,548.
Population (Registrar General's Estimate) ...	(12,830) 12,800.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	(82) 96	(77) 77	(159) 173
Illegitimate.	(1) 6	(4) 3	(5) 9
Totals... ..	(83)102	(81) 80	(164) 182

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude)	(14.8)	14.2
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (adjusted)	(12.8)	14.2
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	(16.1)	16.4
Illegitimate Birth Rate.	(3.3%)	4.4%

Still Births:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	(1) 5	(3) 1	(4) 6
Illegitimate.	(-) 1	(-) -	(-) 1
Totals... ..	(1) 6	(3) 1	(4) 7

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live & still births	(24.4)	30.6
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live & still births (England & Wales)	(22.4)	21.6

Deaths:

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
(69) 76	(77) 80	(146) 156

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude)	(11.4)	12.0
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (adjusted)	(10.0)	10.6
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	(11.5)	11.7
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion.	(Nil)	Nil.

Infant Mortality:

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	(1) 1	(1) 3	(2) 4
Illegitimate.	(-) -	(1) -	(1) -
Totals... ..	(1) 1	(2) 3	(3) 4

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births. ...	(24.4)	21.0
(b) All infants England and Wales. ...	(23.0)	23.1

Neo-Natal Mortality:

Number of deaths of infants under four weeks of age:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	(1) 1	(1) 2	(2) 3
Illegitimate.	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Totals... ..	(1) 1	(1) 2	(2) 3

Neo-Natal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	16.4
National Mortality rate per 1,000 live & still births	Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Measles.	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Whooping Cough.	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Diphtheria.....	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Influenza.	(1) -	(-) -	(1) -
Cancer (All types).. ...	(16) 11	(13) 16	(29) 27
Vascular Lesions of the nervous system.	(8) 6	(19) 9	(27) 15
Heart Diseases (All Forms). ...	(28) 34	(24) 37	(52) 71
Diabetes.	(1) 2	(-) -	(1) 2
Pneumonia.	(3) 3	(3) 6	(6) 9
Bronchitis.....	(3) 4	(-) 1	(3) 5
Other Respiratory Diseases. ...	(1) -	(-) 2	(1) 2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	(-) 1	(-) -	(-) 1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea....	(-) 3	(-) -	(-) 3
Nephritis and Nephrosis... ..	(1) 1	(-) 1	(1) 2
Hyperplasia of Prostate... ..	(-) 3	(-) -	(-) 3
Congenital Malformations.. ...	(-) -	(3) 1	(3) 1
Accidents (Not Motor Vehicles).. ...	(1) 2	(3) 2	(4) 4
Accidents (Motor Vehicles). ...	(1) -	(-) -	(1) -
Suicide.. ...	(-) 1	(1) 1	(1) 2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	(5) 5	(11) 4	(16) 9
Total... ..	(69) 76	(77) 80	(146) 156

SECTION B.

1. Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health, who also serves other districts.

Senior Public Health Inspector, whole time,
J.A.E. Burrows, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspector, whole time,
I.C. Hazell, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

2. Ambulance Facilities

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance service.

3. Nursing in the Home

The West Suffolk County Council's Home Nursing and Midwifery service supply six District Nurses.

4. The West Suffolk County Council provide four Infant Welfare Centres in the District at Long Melford, Glemsford, Nayland and Great Waldingfield.

5. Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Service, directed by the Medical Research Council at Ipswich, has given the district very generous service.

The Public Analyst for the County has given Reports on the analysis of the water in the Area.

SECTION C.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

The following Report is submitted by Mr. H.J. Harrington, the Council's Water Engineer:

During the year ended 31st March, 1959, the Council's Public Water Supplies have been very satisfactory, both in quantity and quality. The amount used for domestic purposes has increased during the year due to Sewerage Schemes coming into operation.

A section of 4" water main was installed at Boxford Lane, Newton, and a 3" section was laid from Rose Green, Assington, to Smallbridge Hall, Bures St. Mary.

At the end of March, 1959, 4,137 houses were receiving a main water supply; 2,915 properties having a laid-on supply and 1,222 properties being supplied by means of Standpipes in gardens.

Detailed information relating to each Parish is set out below:-

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Laid-on Supplies.</u>	<u>Standpipe Supplies.</u>	<u>Total Number of properties connected.</u>
Acton.	157	28	185
Assington... ..	87	35	122
Great Cornard.	475	57	532
Little Cornard.... ..	61	24	85
Chilton.	67	19	86
Leavenheath.	65	31	96
Newton.	80	30	110
Long Melford.	532	263	795
Great Waldingfield.	90	66	156
Little Waldingfield.	57	19	76
Stoke-by-Nayland..	174	39	213
Nayland.	230	15	245
Alpheton.... ..	54	18	72
Boxted.	25	2	27
Glemsford... ..	229	380	609
Hartest.	94	26	120
Lawshall.... ..	108	49	157
Shimpling... ..	72	18	90
Stanstead... ..	42	48	90
Somerton.... ..	19	14	33
Bures St. Mary.... ..	197	41	238
Totals.	2,915	1,222	4,137

The consumption per head per day of the Population served on the various Schemes was as follows:-

Central Area Scheme - Source of Supply, Great Cornard Bore

Serving the Parishes of Great and Little Cornard, Long Melford, Acton, Assington, Great and Little Waldingfield, Chilton, Newton and Leavenheath -
18.40 gallons per head per day. (15.00)

Stoke-by-Nayland Scheme - Source of Supply, Bore, Scotland Street, Stoke-by-Nayland

Serving the Parishes of Stoke-by-Nayland and Nayland with Wissington - 19.11 gallons per head per day. (17.41)

Northern Area Water Scheme - Supply purchased in bulk from Thingoe Rural District Council

Serving the Parishes of Glemsford, Stanstead, Boxted, Hartest, Somerton, Lawshall, Shimpling and Alpheton - 14.7 gallons per head per day. (16.39)

Bures St. Mary Scheme - Supply purchased in bulk from Lexden and Winstree Rural District Council

Serving the Parish of Bures St. Mary only - 15.53 gallons per head per day. (17.63)

Figures in Parentheses refer to year 1957.

None of the sources of supply tended to have Plumbo-Solvent action.

Examination of Supplies

All supplies were analysed during the year by the Council's Analyst, at The Analytical Laboratory, Haywards Heath, Sussex, in accordance with the Water Abstraction Regulations, 1947, and all proved to be very satisfactory.

The total amount of water supplied during the year was 113,193,000 gallons, made up as follows:-

For domestic purposes:	81,958,000 gallons.
Supplied by meter:	31,235,000 gallons.
Total:	113,193,000 gallons.

The above figures represent a consumption of 23.06 gallons per head, per day of the population for all purposes.

SECTION D.

REPORT OF MR. J. A. E. BURROWS.

Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector.

WATER SUPPLIES - Private.

Ten samples of water from nine sources were submitted for bacteriological examination. The Sources were six shallow wells, two springs, and the moat of a private house. The supplies from one well and one spring were found to be satisfactory. Of the remainder, in two cases the properties are now on the Council's main supply and the Council is seeking authority to extend its water main to serve properties at present relying on the other three wells. The moat was sampled to ascertain its suitability as a swimming pool for children, but the findings were "typical of polluted raw river water", and the owner was advised accordingly.

No samples were submitted for chemical analysis,

SEWERAGE SCHEMES.

Acton.

As in previous years the Disposal Works has been frequently overloaded with cesspool contents from the Housing Estates in the northern half of the District. A particularly bad sample taken by the Essex River Board in May showed suspended matter at 65 parts per million and B.O.D. (Biological Oxygen Demand) at 80. Normal River Board requirements are that these figures should not exceed 30 and 20 respectively. A further sample taken two months later gave greatly improved results with suspended matter at 20 parts per million and B.O.D. at 5.5. This was the first satisfactory sample taken from this Works since June, 1955.

Bures.

This Scheme suffered from a number of "teething" troubles during the first half of the year, the most irksome being the unreliability of the switch gear. The ejector station and sewers in Bures Hamlet were flooded in February, March and June, after which, work was carried out to bring the tops of the manhole and sump and the cill of the pumphouse door above flood level. A further sixty-two properties on the Bures St. Mary side of the river were connected, bringing the total to ninety-eight. Despite long negotiations the Slaughterhouse wastes had not been connected by the end of the year, neither had the Dyeworks Wastes.

Nayland and Stoke-by-Nayland.

The disposal works serving these Parishes continued to function very well, giving Analysis results with suspended matter as low as 10 parts per million and a B.O.D., of 2.4. By the end of the year 132 properties in Nayland and 87 in Stoke-by-Nayland were connected to the sewer. In addition the sewage from the British Legion Hospital is received. There are no trade wastes from these villages.

Great Waldingfield.

This ex-W.D., Works remained in the dilapidated condition previously reported. An attempt to replace one of the broken down sprinklers with a secondhand set from another local authority proved to be impracticable. Further complaints regarding the effluent were received from the River Board.

Long Melford.

This long awaited scheme was commenced in January and proceeded steadily throughout the year, despite difficulties created by the waterlogged condition of much of the ground.

General.

With the coming into operation of the Bures Scheme it was decided to provide an attendant for this site, bringing the sewerage maintenance staff up to three, one of whom is the foreman. These men maintain the works, using the formen's car for transport, for which he is paid a travelling allowance.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEMES FOR COUNCIL ESTATES.

There are seven small disposal works serving Council Houses only. During the year all these works were provided with high fences to prevent them being used by children as playgrounds. The works at Somerton were partially rebuilt and the biological filter material renewed.

NIGHT SOIL COLLECTION.

The arrangements whereby weekly collections are made under Contract in the Parishes of Long Melford, Bures St. Mary, Great Cornard and part of Chilton, were continued. Glemsford, which had previously received only a partial service was completely served as from August. The cost of this extension was largely balanced by the conversion of pail closets to water closets in Bures.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE.

Cesspool emptying from private houses was carried out on request, a charge of £1., per load or part load of sewage removed being made. The work was carried out by a Contractor and complaints were extremely few. No service is provided where a sewer is available. 423 emptyings were made from 337 properties, a slight decrease compared with the previous year. The properties served were distributed in Parishes as follows:-

Acton.	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Alpheton....	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Assington...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Boxted.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bures St. Mary....	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Chilton.	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Glemsford...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Great Cornard.	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
Great Waldingfield.	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Hartest.	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Lawshall....	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Leavenheath.	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Little Cornard....	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Little Waldingfield.	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Long Melford.	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Nayland.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wissington..	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Newton.	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Shimpling...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Somerton....	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Stanstead...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Stoke-by-Nayland..	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Total...	...	...	...	...	...	...	337
- 10 -							

The three Cleansing Units belonging to the Council were engaged on Council House cesspool emptying and sewage disposal.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Refuse collection remained as before with two vehicles providing a fortnightly collection in the whole of the area except Long Melford, which enjoys a weekly service. At the end of the year one of the original vehicles was replaced by a new one of similar capacity.

HOUSING.

Three houses were demolished following the making of Demolition Orders and two were demolished voluntarily as a result of informal action. Demolition Orders were placed on two other cottages and a Closing Order on a third. Action was commenced on a Clearance Area comprising five cottages.

Nineteen houses were made fit following informal action. No statutory action was necessary.

Enquiries regarding Improvement Grants continued to cause a great deal of work but it is felt that the results are well worth while. Many old properties have been transformed almost beyond recognition by grant aided schemes. A satisfactory feature of this year's work was that of twenty-five schemes completed, eighteen were for let houses, sixteen of these being agricultural cottages. The remainder were owner occupied.

Five applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received and investigated. One Certificate was issued and undertakings to do the necessary work received for the remainder. All the repairs listed were eventually carried out.

Two hundred and sixteen proposals were submitted for consideration under the Council's Building Byelaws and / or the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947.

Seventy new private houses or bungalows were completed during the year and fifty-five were under construction at its close. No Council Houses were completed and fourteen were under construction.

The houses completed were in the following Parishes:-

Great Cornard.	...	...	...	47
Great Waldingfield..	...	...	...	5
Glemsford.	...	...	...	5
Long Melford..	...	...	...	3
Lawshall.	...	...	...	3
Leavenheath...	...	...	...	2
Chilton.	...	...	...	1
Nayland.	...	...	...	1
Bures...	...	...	...	1
Shimpling.	...	...	...	1
Little Waldingfield.	...	...	...	1
Total.				70

The figure for Great Cornard includes 34 completed on one private housing estate.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The number of Slaughterhouses and conditions of slaughtering remain as reported for 1957. The percentage of slaughtered animals inspected was 96.9%. 33 carcasses were found to be affected with cysticercus bovis, or 0.9% of the number of carcasses inspected, an increase of 0.1% over the previous year.

Six tons fourteen hundredweights of meat and offal were condemned during the year.

The following table gives details of killings, inspections and condemnations:-

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed.	3,478	100	1,124	6,648
Number Inspected..	3,375	100	1,065	6,467
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned. ...	4	-	3	13
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned. ...	186	1	1	125
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	5.6	1.0	0.4	2.1
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned. ...	5	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	95	-	-	99
Percentage of the number inspected with Tuberculosis	3.0	-	-	1.5

NUISANCES

Fifty-eight complaints were received of which twenty-two were concerned with some aspect of the Refuse Collection or Cleansing Schemes. Particular difficulty was found by the Council's Contractor in finding disposal points for night-soil or cesspool contents which would not be objectionable to someone living near or passing by. In all cases of genuine nuisances susceptible to remedial action, those responsible put the matter right following an informal approach.

FOOD PREMISES AND FOOD HYGIENE.

Once again very little work could be done here because of the pressure of other work. Following complaints one bakehouse proprietor was visited and a general clean-up of his premises achieved.

RODENT CONTROL

One operator continues to tour the District regularly, inspecting private houses, business premises and farms, and treating the first two classes. A small charge is made for business premises. No heavy rat infestations were found.

No statutory action was required.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937. SECTION 34.

One large factory was surveyed and a revised Certificate of Adequate Means of Escape in case of Fire issued.

-X-X-X-X-

SECTION E.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases Notified during Year.

CASES NOTIFIED:

CIVILIAN.

<u>Disease:</u>		<u>1958.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1955.</u>
Scarlet Fever. ...	...	31	26	15	1
Whooping Cough. ...	...	39	102	30	35
Measles. ...	...	39	85	415	122
Diphtheria....	...	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia. ...	...	28	31	28	15
Erysipelas....	...	1	1	1	-
Ophthalmia - Neonatorum...		-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis. ...	...	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Fever. ...	...	2	1	1	-
Infective Hepatitis. ...	...	2	10	6	1
Dysentery. ...	...	-	-	14	4
Paratyphoid Fever...	...	-	-	2	-
Food Poisoning. ...	...	-	-	-	4
Meningococcol Infection...		-	-	1	-

TUBERCULOSIS

	<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>			<u>Total all Types</u>
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	
No: of cases on Register at commencement of year.	19	37	56	3	5	8	64
No: of cases added during the year.	-	2	2	-	-	-	2
No: of cases removed during the year.	1	6	7	1	2	3	10
No: of cases remaining on Register at end of year.	18	33	51	2	3	5	56

SECTION F.

ANTHRAX ORDER, 1938

Two cases of anthrax in livestock were notified. The disposal of the carcasses of these animals, by incineration, was supervised.

SECTION G.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF
THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

I - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	No: on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	1	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	65	18	3	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	0	57	-	-
TOTAL	66	75	3	-

II - Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	found	remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences				
(a) Insufficient.	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	3	-	5
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	3	-	5

III - Part VIII - OUTWORKERS.

<u>Nature of Work</u>	<u>Number</u>
Fur Pulling	42

SECTION H.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47 - Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

Two cases were dealt with during the year in accordance with this Section of the Act.

-X-X-X-X-

